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ABSTRACT

The first in a series of studies about poverty in the South, this report focuses on Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. Since 1979, the rate of poverty for these states has shown a steady, sharp increase, bringing it up to 18.2 percent in 1983. The national poverty rates for blacks reached 35.7 percent in 1983, the highest level since 1968. Of all families headed by black women, 57.2 percent were poor. The number of poor persons has increased dramatically from 26 million in 1979 to 35 million in 1983, 12 million in the 11 southern states, the highest number since the years before 1965. The number of poor individuals not in families or households is 6.8 million, higher than it has ever been in the recorded history of poverty. Only a minority of poor households receives any one of the available non-cash benefits, while a majority of the non-poor households receive at least some benefits. Forty-seven percent of all poor persons ages 15-65 were working full- or part-time in in 1982. Only 21 percent of benefits aimed at the poor go to households that are not headed by persons 65 or older or by a single female with children. (PS)

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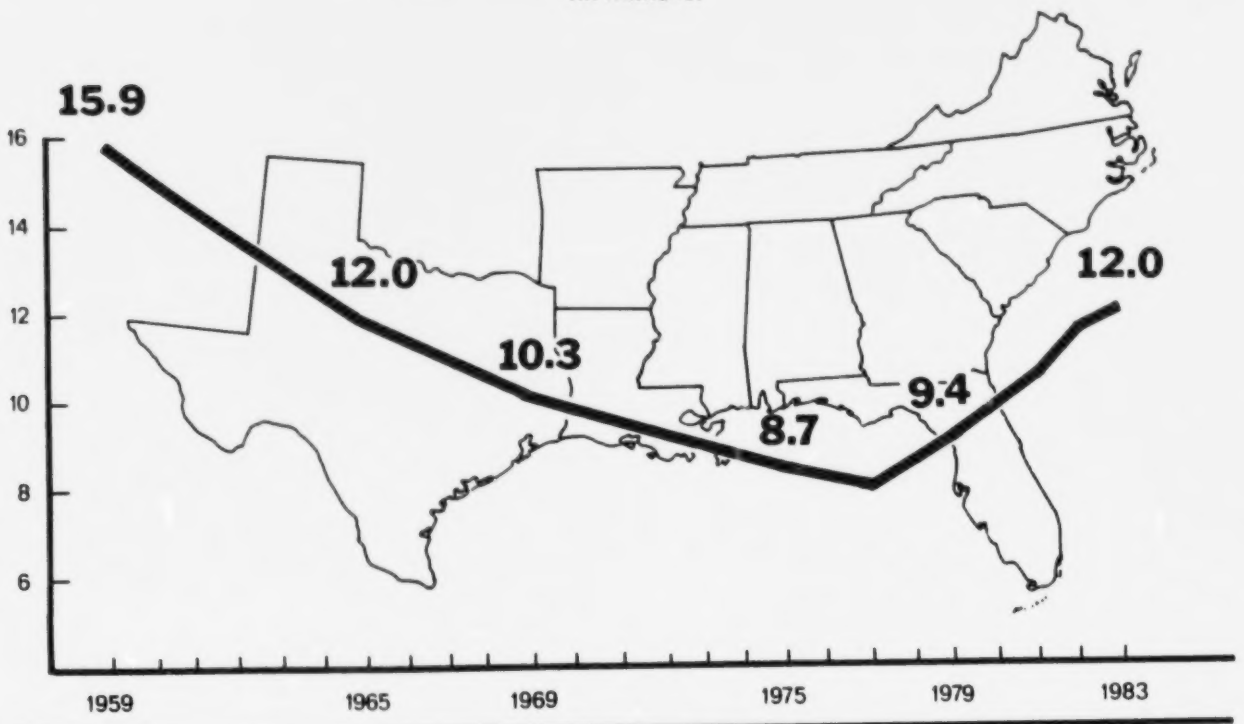
PATTERNS OF POVERTY

Number of Poor Persons in the South

(In Millions)



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A Special Report of the Southern Regional Council

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PATTERNS OF POVERTY

A Special Report of the
Southern Regional Council, Inc.

Prepared by Steve Suitts
December, 1984
(2nd edition - March, 1985)

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Presidential Remarks

Mr. Wieghart: Mr. President . . . the Census Bureau, just a month ago, reported that there are more people living under poverty now than when you took office . . .

What can you offer those in the future in your next term?

Mr. Reagan: Well, some of those facts and figures just don't stand up. Yes, there has been an increase in poverty, but it is a lower rate of increase than it was in the preceding years, before we got here. It has begun to decline, but it is still going up . . . (emphasis added).

Televised, Presidential Debate,

Congressional Quarterly Weekly
October 13, 1984

INTRODUCTION

In this report there are two Souths: one which is defined by the U. S. Bureau of the Census as an area including sixteen states and the District of Columbia. The other South in this report is defined by historical considerations as the eleven Southern states which were the Confederacy: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.*

Most of this report about the South focuses on the eleven Southern states, although constraints in the collection of census data at times require the analysis of the South only by the Census South--the sixteen states and the District of Columbia. Hence the "South" is the eleven Southern states except where reference is made to the "Census South."

In a more profound sense, the data suggest two Souths: one with an increasing poor population so evidently seen on the streets and in the back alleys of large and small towns in the region and another South known in other publications for growing construction, incomes, and population. In these two different Souths, it is increasingly difficult to have each acknowledge the other. This report is the first of a series about poverty in the South and is designed to enlarge and deepen the discussion about the two Souths--focusing on the one most in need.

Although recent decades show new economic benchmarks for the region, this is also an unparalleled time for the Southern poor. For

*Not included in the historical South are the states Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and the District of Columbia.

the first time since the number of poor persons has been monitored, the rate of poverty and the number of poor people are steadily increasing in the South and in the nation.

These staggering facts must come home to all Southerners so that the search to reduce the numbers of poor within our population can be reasoned and focused, as well as compassionate, and so that we can offer an enduring pledge that all in our region will have real opportunities to escape poverty.*

* In this second edition, some revisions have been made in the tables and charts. These changes from the first edition do not alter the basic conclusions or findings of the report; however, they generally reflect updated data from the Bureau of the Census.

THE RATE OF POVERTY

In the last 25 years the South has witnessed a decline of poverty. The rate of poverty in the eleven Southern states dropped from a level of 37% of all persons in the region in 1959 to a low level of 15% in 1979. During this period the South's poverty rate was declining rather steadily: in 1969 the rate was lower than 22%; in 1975 it was 16%; and in 1979 it reached the lowest level of 15.6% (see chart #1).

Since 1979, however, the rate of poverty for the eleven Southern states has shown a steady, sharp increase so that in 1983 the poverty rate was approximately 18.2%.* The reversal of the pattern of declining poverty is unprecedented. Until 1979 - 1980 never had the South experienced a sustained documented increase in the rate of poverty; never had the region had such a rapid increase in the poverty rate.

This sustained, rapid increase since 1979 is particularly disturbing since the enlarging rate of poverty comes at a time when the total population of the eleven Southern states continues to grow. Clearly, this unmatched growth in the rate of poverty is not the result of a decreasing, total population. It is a pattern of an increasing poverty rate in spite of an enlarging population.

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*The Bureau of Census reports that there was a slight decrease in the rate of poverty for the Census South from 1982 to 1983. Because of overall reductions in the number of recipients in the cash assistance program, Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), in the eleven Southern states and the lower rate of decline in unemployment rates in many of the eleven Southern states, the Council's projections for the historical South is that the rate of poverty slightly increased from 1982 to 1983. (See "SOURCES.")

To a large extent, this pattern follows the national pattern. In 1960, the rate of poverty in the nation was 22.2% of all persons. By 1969 it had dropped to 12.1%. After five years of almost a static unmovable rate of poverty, the rate was at 12.3% in 1975. Four years later, in 1979, that rate had moved very little upward or downward, and was marked at 11.7%.

Since 1979 the poverty rate in the nation has gone from 11.7% to 15.2%. This accelerating rate throughout the nation is also unprecedented. In the last 25 years of recorded data, never before has the rate of poverty in the nation jumped upward so steadily and so rapidly.

The movement of poverty rates in the nation and the eleven Southern states since 1959 suggests three stages in the recorded history of poverty: (1) the first ten years of rapid, steady decline in poverty; (2) the second ten years of a leveling or slowing of the decline of poverty; (3) four recent years of rapid, steady increases in the rate of poverty.

In the first period, the decline of poverty in both the South and the nation was dramatic. For the nation the drop was from a rate of 22% in 1959 to a rate of poverty of 12% in 1969. During the same period for the South, the poverty rate declined from 37% to 22%. Still, the nation's decline in poverty had been more impressive since the poverty rate among all persons was almost cut in half--a slightly faster rate than the decline experienced in the South. *

*Although the poverty rate in the South was reduced by 16 percentage points from 1959 to 1969 while the national rate of poverty declined only 11 percentage points, the nation cut its poverty rate almost in half while the South reduced its rate by a smaller percentage, approximately 40 percent.

From 1969 to 1979, the nation's rate of poverty was generally the same at the begining and at the end. In between the rate moved slightly higher or slightly lower each year. In all, the rate of poverty moved very little during those ten years. In the South, the poverty rate continued to decline although it, too, slowed. In the eleven Southern states the rate dropped from 22% to a little over 14%.

In the years since 1979, the poverty rates have increased for both the region and the country by 4 percentage points.

Table A

Change In the Poverty Rate Among Persons
In the Nation and the South

(by percentage points)

	Years	Nation	South
1.	1959 - 1969 :	-10%p.	-16%p.
2.	1969 - 1979 :	- 0%p.	- 7%p.
3.	1979 - 1983 :	+ 4%p.	+ 4%p.

While the changes of the poverty rate during these three periods in the South may prompt broad speculation about the causes and remedies of poverty, it appears that the rates of poverty in the South and the nation--after differing movements in the most recent decade--are now following similar patterns. While there remains some

particular Southern aspects to poverty, similar circumstances today are influencing the rates of poverty in both the South and the nation.

Some groups have been particularly affected by the steady increases in the poverty rate in both the South and the nation since 1979. Including more than 1 in 3 blacks, the nation's poverty rate of 35.7% for all black persons rose in the last four years from 31% in 1979. Not since 1968 has the poverty rate for blacks reached such a high level (see chart #2).

While the exact statistical rate is not available, poverty among blacks in the eleven Southern states has probably risen to 39%--a rate which now makes almost 2 out of every 5 blacks below poverty. This rate increased from 1979 and returned the levels of Southern black poverty that existed in the early 1970s.

Equally disturbing is the continued high levels of poverty among families headed by black women. Nationally in 1983, 57.2% of all families headed by black women were poor. In the South that rate was probably higher than 60% (see chart #4). The percentage of poor black children in families headed by women is nearly 70%, and almost 40% of the elderly blacks in the United States are poor.

THE NUMBERS OF POOR

A rate of poverty is defined by the number of poor persons as a percentage of the total number of people in any jurisdiction. Yet, as a society grows in its number of inhabitants, the poverty rate does not always tell accurately about the numbers of people who escape poverty.

Assume, for example, a poverty rate is 50% because in a small town of two people one of the persons is poor. If one person stays poor but the total population increases to four (with the addition of two inhabitants) the poverty rate would reduce to 25%. Still, the number of poor would remain the same.

Thus, in a nation or region where the total population is growning, the number of poor persons--in addition to the rate of poverty--is an important indicator of the level of poverty in the society.

In our country and in our region, the number of poor persons has made a dramatic increase since 1979. For the first time over four continuous years the number of poor persons has steadly increased. In the South in 1979 the number of poor was almost 9.4 million people. In 1983 the number of poor in the eleven Southern states was at least 12 million (see chart #3).

In the nation the number of poor in 1979 was a little more than 26 million. In 1983, the number of poor had increased to more than 35 million people.

The extent of these increases in the number of poor is without precedent during the last 25 years and probably longer. In the South the number of poor generally decreased from 1959 through 1975. From

1975 until 1979, the number of Southern poor increased by 1%; however, from late 1979 to late 1983 the number of poor in the South increased by 28%.

TABLE B

Movement of the Number of Poor Persons
In the Nation and in the South

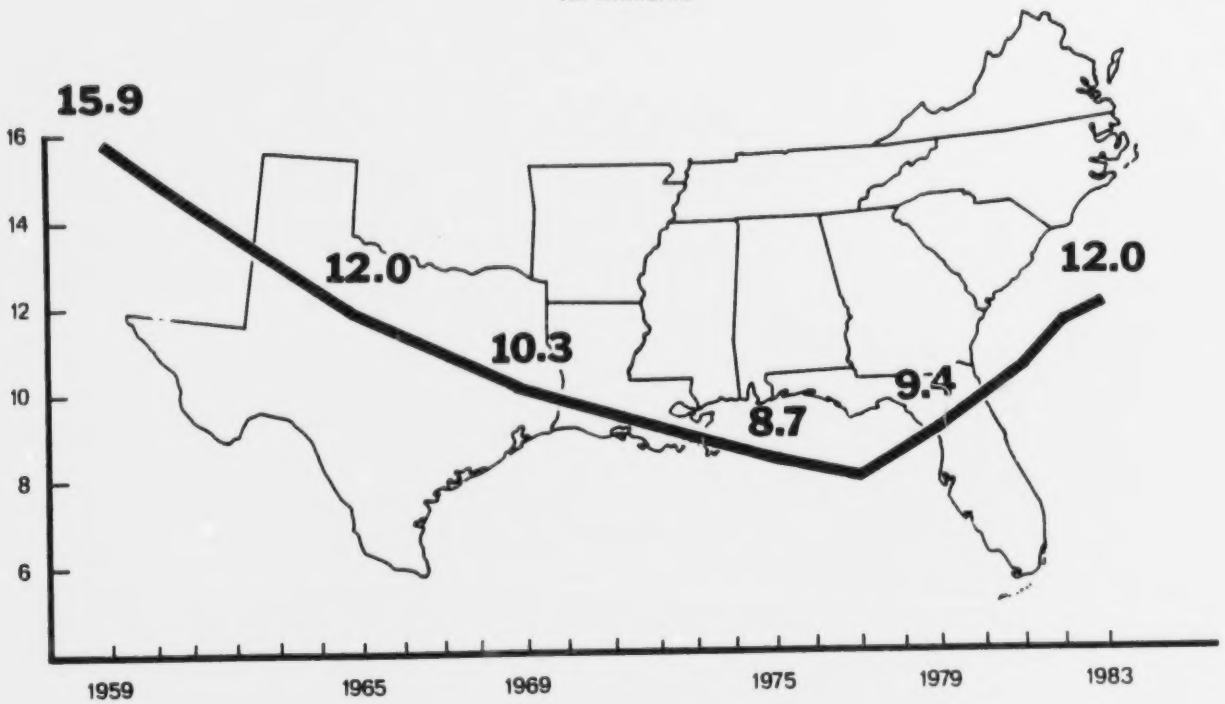
(changes as a percentage)

Years	Nation	South
1959 - 1969	- 38%	- 36%
1969 - 1975	+ 7%	- 15%
1975 - 1979	+ 1%	+ 1%
1979 - 1983	+ 35%	+ 28%

As the table illustrates, the national pattern was somewhat different. The number of poor decreased substantially for ten years between 1959 and 1969. In fact, the percentage of decrease was slightly greater than the South's. From 1969 to 1975, however, the number of poor rose in the nation by 7% and in the following four years the number of poor remained at about the same level at the beginning and end. Since 1979, however, the number of poor in the nation has increased by 35%.

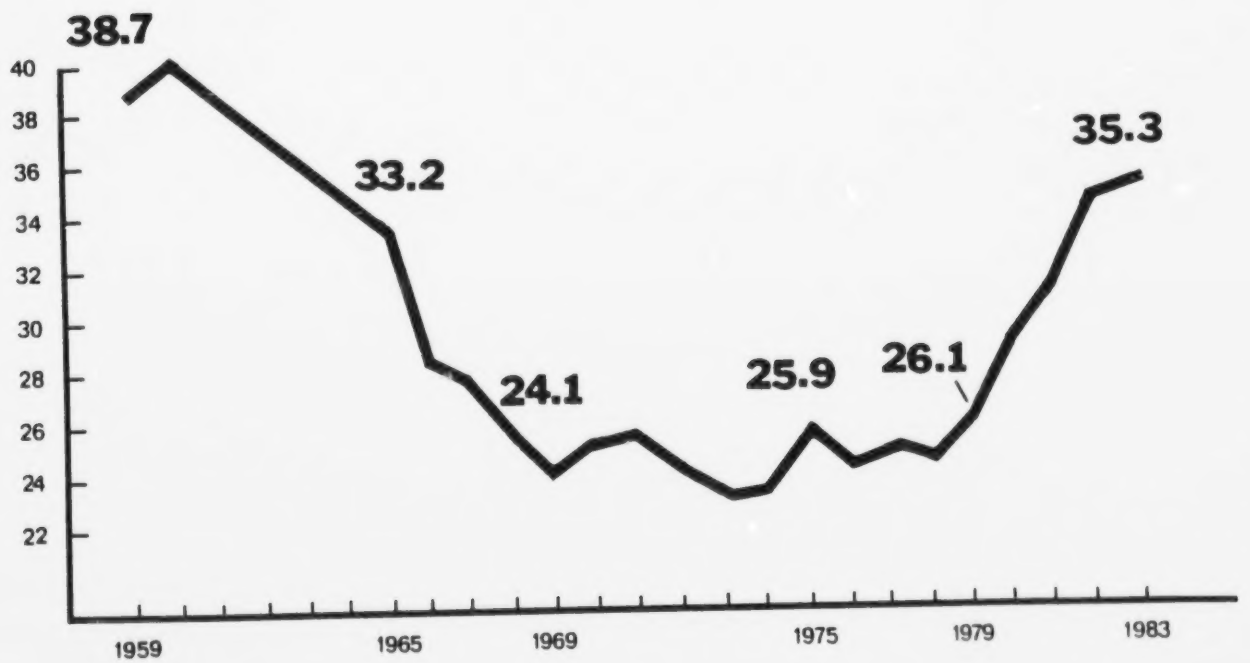
Number of Poor Persons in the South

(In Millions)



Number of Poor Persons in the United States

(In Millions)



These recently rapid, steady increases have returned the number of poor persons to the levels that existed 20 years ago. Not since 1965, a year before the full implementation of the Congressional poverty programs, have the eleven Southern states housed so many poor--at least 12 million in the last reported year. The nation has not countenanced more than 35 million poor people since the years between 1960 and 1965.

These increases have applied to people of every color. Not since the years before 1965 have there been as many poor whites or poor blacks in the South and the nation. There probably have never been as many poor Hispanics in the nation as there are today.

TABLE C

Number of Poor Persons in the United States
By Year

(in millions)

Year	White	Black	Hispanic
1983	23.9	9.9	4.2
1979	17.2	8.1	2.9
1969	16.7	7.1	**
1965	22.5	9.5*	**

* estimate
** not available

The number of poor women and children in families with no husband has shown a phenomenonal increase over time. Today there are almost twice as many black families with only a female parent as there were in the early 1960's. The number of white poor women and children in such families also gained almost by 60% from 1960 to 1983. Related, the number of children under 18 in poverty is higher today than it has been since 1965 (see charts #5, #6, and #7).

Other groupings among the poor have shown differing patterns over time. The number of elderly poor has been increasing only slightly since 1979. At the same time, the number of poor unrelated individuals--those not in families or households--is higher than it has ever been in the recorded history of poverty. In 1960, 4.9 million unrelated individuals were poor; in 1983 6.8 million were in poverty.

THE MEANING AND MEASURE OF POVERTY

In 1983, the last recorded year for poverty statistics, the threshold for poverty for a family of four was $10,178.00, according to the standards of the U. S. Bureau of Census. Since the standard was originally defined, it has been increased yearly in order to allow for inflation.

The original definition of the threshold of poverty has not been updated, and many have taken issue with its original accuracy as a minimum standard of need. Other government agencies, in fact, have used thresholds that are considerably higher to define minimum need. In 1977, for example, the poverty threshold was only 59% of the "lower living standard" as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Other critics suggest that the poor are considerably better off than the statistics suggest. These critics claim that the non-cash benefits which the poor receive would greatly increase the real income of these families if they were computed in deciding who was among the poor population. They argue that food stamps, reduced or free school lunches, public housing, and Medicaid should be given a cash value and included as income in order to determine the real number of poor and the real rate of poverty.

Along these lines a recent technical paper from the Census Bureau estimated that the number of poor would be reduced by 12% to 42% from the present levels if non-cash benefits were included as money income in the surveys of the poor population.*

*See Estimates of Poverty Including the Value of Non Cash Benefits: 1983, Technical Paper No. 52, U. S. Bureau of Census.

The impact of non-cash benefits in reducing the poverty rate appears to be slight, however, when a more generous threshold of poverty also has been used in some limited studies. For example, in a study in 1979 one ecomonist attempted to account for both the value of non-cash benefits to the poor and a higher, more accurate measurement of a standard of need for the aged population. When the two considerations were combined, the poverty rate for the aged was much the same as the current census report.*

Often forgotten in discussing the non-cash benefits to the poor is the fact that many people who are not poor also receive government and private benefits which are not considered as a part of their income by the Census Bureau. Beyond the benefits of tax policies, there are specific programs for the non-poor which are similar in nature to the non-cash benefits which the poor now receive. Medicare, employer or union sponsored pension plans, and group health plans sponsored by employers or unions are not considered today in defining the income of non-poor persons.

A comparison of poor and non-poor households receiving these benefits is instructive. While information is not available for the historic South, data are available for the Census South.

*See Marilyn Moon, "The Incidence of Poverty Among the Aged," Journal of Human Resources, Spring 1979. Also, see Moon and Smolensky, "Income, Economic Status, and Policy Towards the Aged," Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin. 1977.

Among poor households in the Census South, 44% received food stamps in 1982. 37% of poor households received Medicare and 35% received Medicaid, the two government sponsored health programs. A considerably smaller percentage, 25% of the poor households, had children who received free school lunches and only 13% of the poor households were recipients of public or subsidized housing.

TABLE D

Percent of Poor Households
Receiving Non-Cash Benefits
In the Census South

1982

Non-Cash Benefit	Percent of Poor Receiving Benefit	Percent of Poor Not Receiving Benefit
Food Stamps	44%	56%
Free School Lunches	26%	74%
Public/Subsidized Housing	13%	87%
Medicaid	35%	65%
Medicare	37%	63%
Average of 5 Programs	31%	69%

As the table illustrates, in the Census South a substantial majority of all poor households receive none of the non-cash benefits. 87% of the poor do not receive public housing. 74% have no free lunches at schools and 63% do not receive Medicare. Even a majority do not receive food stamps. On average, 69% of the poor do not

receive any of the non-cash benefits. If historical trends are correct, these large percentages of the poor households which do not receive benefits are higher in the eleven Southern states.

In examining the non-cash benefits for households in the Census South that are not poor, the pattern shows a small percentage of the non-poor receiving some benefits and a substantial percentage receiving other benefits. 16% of the Census South households outside of poverty received subsidized school lunches and 23% had members of the household covered under Medicare. At the same time, 48% of all households in the region had members covered under the employer or union sponsored pension plans. Almost 2 out of 3 households in the census South--64%--received benefits from employer or union group health plans. On average, 62% of the non-poor do not receive non-cash benefits.

TABLE E

Percent of Non-Poor Households
Receiving Non-Cash Benefits
In the Census South

1982

Non-Cash Benefit	Percent of Non-Poor Receiving Benefit	Percent of Non-Poor Not Receiving Benefit
Medicare	23%	77%
Subsidized School Lunch	16%	84%
Employer/Union Pension Plan	48%	52%
Employer/Union Group Health Plan	64%	36%
Average of 4 Programs	38%	62%

Thus, in computing similar benefits which are not currently counted by the Bureau of the Census, both the poor and the non-poor receive non-cash benefits. While only a minority of poor households receive any one of the non-cash benefits available to it, a majority of the non-poor households in the census South receive at least some benefits from a union or employer sponsored health plan.

While it is still unclear as to the effect of gauging non-cash benefits for the poor alone, it is probable that when those benefits are counted for both the poor and the non-poor the relative status of each group would not be dramatically altered. Because on average a larger percent of non-poor than poor receive non-cash benefits, there is a suggestion in the available statistics that the relative position of the poor might even be reduced.

As helpful as it is, this comparison does not quiet the current criticism that government benefits encourage people not to work and, thereby, prevent the poor from acquiring more permanent sources of income from available jobs.

Because past and future public policies are being proposed in large part based on this criticism, some important evidence is worth serious consideration.

In the Census South, most of the government benefits available to the poor go to those who are least able to work, or least able to find work, because of age, sex or family circumstances. All states in the deep South and most other border states provide cash assistance under Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) only to poor families with children and only one parent. Of all of the poor households that received food stamps in the Census South, 41% have only one female parent who heads a household. 27% of the poor households

receiving food stamps are headed by someone 65 years or older. Together these two groups--those headed by single female parents and senior citizens--constitute more then 2 of 3 of all poor households receiving food stamps.

TABLE F

Distribution of Non-Cash Benefits to Poor Households
Percent of Benefit Received by Households of
One Female Parent and of Persons 65 Years or Older
In the Census South

1982

Non-Cash Benefit	Percent of Benefit To One Female Parent and Her Children	Percent of Benefit To Householders 65 Years or Older	Percent of Benefit to Both Groups
AFDC	95%	---	95%
Food Stamps	41%	27%	68%
Free School Lunches	58%	---	58%
Public Subsidized Housing	56%	22%	78%
Medicaid	42%	37%	79%
Medicare	---	100%*	100%
Average of 6 Programs	---	---	79%

*includes a small percent of disabled poor and persons 62 years old.

For all other substantial benefits to the poor, these two groups constitute the largest proportion of the total recipients. In the Census South almost 8 of 10 of all poor households who received public housing or Medicaid are headed by women without a husband with children at home or by persons 65 years or older. Virtually 100% of Medicare is available to only the aged. On average, 79% of the benefits go to these two groups.

Under the circumstances it is difficult to understand the criticism that these benefits are offering the poor an opportunity to evade work. In fact, the benefits are going largely to persons heading households who cannot work, should not work, or are least able to work.

The current criticism also assumes that the poor do not work today. Although no statistical data is available now to give a regional perspective for the historical or Census South in 1982, a survey of the nation's poor population adequately permits a test of this assumption for the country and the region.

Census data tell us that 40% of the poor persons 15 years or older across the country in 1982 were working part-time or full-time. Excluding persons 65 years or older, a total of 47% of all poor persons in the United States were working part-time or full-time in 1982.

TABLE G

Work Experience of the Poor
Percent Working Part-time or Full-time in the Last Year
in the United States

1982

	Working Poor Persons*	Poor Families With a Working Person
All	40%	60%
15 - 64 Year Olds	47%	---
Most Able Families**	---	72%

* persons at least 15 years old
**excludes families headed by single females with children under 6 years old, the disabled, and persons 65 years or older.

In addition, 60% of the poor families had at least one person who worked part-time or full-time in 1982. When households headed by females with children under six, the disabled, and persons 65 or older are excluded, a total of 72% of all poor families in the United States had someone working part-time of full-time in 1982.

A work rate of 47% for poor persons from 15 to 65 in the United States and a 72% rate for all poor families able to work, does not show a significantly low work ethic. The data, in fact, show that poor families, like most American families, are working families in our society today.*

*Census reports show that 60% of the unrelated individuals not retired, ill, or disabled worked in 1982. A more detailed analysis of the working habits and experiences of the poor will be published later as a separate report in this series.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

The patterns of poverty in the South and the nation tell about unprecedented developments. In the recorded history of 25 years of poverty in this country never have we witnessed such a steady, rapid rise of the rate of poverty and the number of poor in the South and in the nation. By last count, in 1983, there were 12 million people in the eleven Southern states and 35 million people across the country who were below the poverty threshold. While we must go back 20 years to find so many poor among our communities, we have never witnessed the steady rise of poverty which has occurred in the last few years in the South.

The Census Bureau advised in its report of August, 1984 that "poverty rates for the 1980's and the 1960's cannot be completely equated as measures of wellbeing. Despite recent reductions in some transfer programs, families and unrelated individuals with low incomes had access to a greater range of Government benefits in 1983 than they did in 1966. Most of the growth in the aid to the poor occurred in programs such as food stamps and Medicaid that provide assistance in a form other than cash." An honest qualification, the statement fails to note that many similar benefits such as Medicare, pension plans sponsored by unions or employers, and group health plans benefitting the non-poor were not available so widely 20 years ago.

When the non-cash benefits that are not now computed in deciding the incomes of both the poor and non-poor are examined, both groups have important benefits that are not now counted as income and were not readily available in the past. While the analysis is some-

what limited, the comparison of such benefits for the poor and non-poor today suggests that the relative status of the groups would change very little if both were counted as income.

In the national debate over poverty today, the prevailing criticism is that government benefits discourage the poor from working. Our analysis shows that most of the benefits aimed to the poor in the Census South go primarily to those who are least able to work by reasons of age, sex or family circumstances. Only a small percentage of the benefits aimed to the poor--on average, only 21%--go to households that are not headed by persons 65 years or older or by a single female with children.

Equally important, most poor families do have persons who work. When families headed by women with children under six, the disabled, and persons 65 years or older are excluded, 72% of the poor families had a part-time or full-time worker in 1982--almost 3 out of 4 of all poor families. Poor families are working families across this country.

Many indicators of public opinion suggest today that in the South and the rest of the country we are separating into two societies: the poor and the more fortunate. This is a mistaken course. We forget our heritage and ignore plain facts if we do not understand that the poor and the non-poor of our society are much the same in their basic needs, aspirations and experiences. "One nation under God . . . " is not a slogan; it is our solemn pledge to ourselves and to all others.

Today there is an urgent need for public policies and private initiatives to undo this unprecedented trend of rising poverty. The

national government and the state governments have special responsibilities. But, so do employers, churches, and others. Above all, in and outside of government, we must start with an honest recognition of what is happening in our own communities, our own region, and our own nation.

In our public discussion we must have leaders who will tell the truth and people who will listen as best they can. While there is no national consensus yet on the ways to address these new patterns of poverty, we do know this much: poverty has never been reduced by being ignored.

SOURCES:

This report relies primarily upon the published data of the Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce. The data are found in the following monographs:

1. Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: Current Population Reports, series P-60 No. 145, Bureau of the Census, August 1984;

2. Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level: 1982, Current Population Reports, series P-60 No. 144, Bureau of the Census, March 1984;

3. Characteristics of Households and Persons Receiving Selected Non-Cash Benefits: 1982, Current Population Reports, series P-60 No. 143, Bureau of the Census, January 1984;

4. State and Metropolitan Area Data Book, 1982: Statistical Abstract Supplement, U. S. Bureau of the Census, revised February 1983;

5. Money Income and Poverty Status in 1975 of Families and Persons in the United States and the South Region, by Divisions and State, (Spring 1976 Survey of Income and Education), Current Population Reports, series P-60 No. 112, Bureau of the Census, June 1978.

Data for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) were supplied by state departments by telephone and unemployment rates were computed from Employment and Earnings, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of labor, February 1984.

ESTIMATES:

No data for poverty are available for the 11 Southern states since 1979; available data for the Census South show a sharp increase of poverty from 1979 to 1982 and a small decrease of levels from 1982 to 1983. This report estimates that poverty in the historical South increased from 1979 to 1982, as did the Census South, and increased from 1982 to 1983 contrary to the trend for the Census South. The estimate for the historical South is based upon an analysis of unemployment rates and the level of government programs of cash assistance in each jurisdiction of the Census South. That analysis shows a slightly lower rate of decline in unemployment among the states of the historical South when compared with the remaining jurisdictions in the Census South. In addition, there were notably lower levels of cash assistance and a smaller percentage of the poor who received assistance in the states of the historical South in 1983 when compared with the total of the other six jurisdictions of the Census South. These two factors influencing the numbers of poor supports the estimate that the small reduction of poverty that occurred from 1982 to 1983 in the Census South did not occur in the 11 states of the South.

Chart #1

Poverty Rate In the United States and the South
(Percent Poor of All Persons)

Year	Nation	Census South	SRC South
1983	15.2%	17.2%	18.2%*
1982	15.0%	18.1%	18.2%*
1979	11.7%	15 %	14.6%
1975	12.3%	16.2%	16.1%
1969	12.1%	17.9%	21.6%
1959	22.2%	35.4%	37.4%

*estimated

Chart #2

Poverty Rate of Black Persons
In the United States and the South
(Percent Poor of All Black Persons)

Year	Nation	Census South	SRC South
1983	35.7%	37.5%	39.0%*
1979	31.0%	33.9%	33.3%
1975	31.3%	36.6%	* *
1970	33.1%	42.6%	46.4%
1966	41.8%	* *	* *

*estimated
**not available

Chart #3

Number of Poor Persons in the United States and the South
(by thousands)

Year	Nation	Census South	SRC South
1983	35,266	13,484	12,012*
1982	34,398	13,967	11,947*
1979	26,072	11,098	9,391
1975	25,877	11,059	8,724
1969	24,147	11,090	10,257
1965	33,185	14,755*	12,009*
1959	38,766	19,116	15,894

*estimated

Chart #4

Poverty Rate of Black Persons In Special Groups In the United States
(Percent of Poor Among Each Grouping)

Year	In Black Female Headed Families	Children In Black Female Headed Families	Black Persons 65 Years or Older
1983	57.2%	68.5%	36.3%
1982	58.8%	70.7%	38.2%
1981	56.7%	67.7%	39.0%
1980	53.4%	64.8%	38.1%
1979	53.1%	63.1%	36.2%
1975	54.3%	66.0%	33.9%
1969	58.2%	68.2%	50.2%
1965	65.3%	76.6%	**

** not available

Chart #5

Number of Poor Black Persons In Special Groups In the United States (in thousands)

Year	Persons In Black Female Headed Families	Children In Black Female Headed Families	Black Persons Over 65 Years
1983	5754	3185	796
1982	5698	3269	811
1981	5222	3051	820
1980	4984	2944	783
1979	4816	2887	740
1975	4168	2724	652
1969	3225	2383	689
1966	3160	2107	722

Chart #6

Poverty Rate of Persons in Special Groups In the United States
(Percent Poor of All persons)

Year	Persons Over 65 Years	Unrelated Persons	Children Under 18
1983	14.1%	23.4%	21.7%
1982	14.6%	23.1%	21.3%
1981	15.3%	23.4%	19.5%
1980	15.7%	22.9%	17.9%
1979	15.2%	21.9%	16.0%
1975	15.3%	25.1%	16.8%
1969	25.3%	34.0%	13.8%
1965	**	39.8%	20.7%
1960	**	45.2%	26.5%

** not available

Chart #7

Number of Poor Persons In Special Groups
In the United States
(in thousands)

Year	Persons Over 65 Years	Unrelated Persons	Children Under 18
1983	3711	6832	13,326
1982	3751	6458	13,139
1981	3853	6490	12,068
1980	3871	6227	11,114
1979	3682	5743	9,993
1975	3317	5088	10,882
1969	4787	4972	9,501
1965	* *	4827	14,388
1960	* *	4926	17,288

** not available

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